GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:567
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003
OSTEOPOROSIS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that prevalence of Osteoporosis is on the rise in the country particularly in Delhi as reported in the Hindustan Times dated April 05, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the spread of this disease?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 567 FOR 30.4.2003

Osteoporosis is emerging as an important health problem in view of the increasing number of older people in India. Exact figures on a national level are not available since most patients with osteoporotic fractures, with the exception of hip fractures, are not hospitalized.

Osteoporosis is a metabolic bone disease of the aging population (especially older women). With the increase in the number of older people in the population, there is bound to be an increase in the number of osteoporosis cases. Increase in life expectancy, sedentary life style, lack of physical activity, smoking, alcoholism, mal-nourishment and altered dietary preferences are the main reasons for increase in osteoporosis.

The National Policy on Older Persons (1999), National Population Policy (2000) andNational Health Policy (2002) have recognised osteoporosis as an important health problem of later life which may affect well being of the aging population. Treatment for osteoporosis by specialists is available at most of the Medical College Hospitals, State Government Institutions and Central Government Institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGI) Chandigarh, Safdarjang Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital etc.